



WASHRAG™

www.n3sh.org www.washrag.info

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NOVEMBER 2010

N3SH
WA3SH
NP2SH/B



Wireless Association of South Hills

A Proposal to the Club

Since early this year I have grown interested in the EME (Earth-Moon-Earth) aspect of amateur radio after reading about the Echoes of Apollo event that takes place every April. This is an event where former NASA relay stations comprised of large dish antennas from around the world are outfitted to bounce amateur radio signals off the moon and make contacts with other amateur radio groups. You can learn more from this link; <http://echoesofapollo.com/moon-bounce/>. This past April the big gun of the weekend was the radio telescope at Aricebo in Puerto Rico which used the 70-cm band exclusively. More can be learned about this station at http://www.cq-vhf.com/vhf_highlights/2010_vhf/2010_summer_vhf/2010_summer_vhf_echoes_barthelow.pdf.

Plans are already underway for the EOA weekend next year. But that is not all. That same weekend is also celebrated as Yuri's Night to honor the first person to fly into space, Yuri Gagarin the first Soviet Cosmonaut. This is not just an amateur radio event but more of a space education event. However this year the same amateurs who are active in EOA are also bringing Yuri's Night into the weekend with the idea to introduce EME and amateur radio to young people. This got me thinking of an idea that might be a good club project if we are willing.

My thought is to approach the Amateur Astronomers Association of Pittsburgh group that operates the Mingo County Park Observatory with an offer to set up an EME station that will operate the EOA/Yuri's Night weekend next April. They have a charter to provide educational activities to school aged kids and would likely have the means to promote the event and draw a good crowd. We could provide a unique event that brings amateur radio and astronomy together. But of course the key is to have an operational EME station. Here is what I have in mind.

All amateur bands from 6-meters up through the microwave bands are popular for EME. The

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How's Your Health?

It's a running joke amongst a lot of amateur radio operators... let's face it, many of us are not exactly in the best of shape. More importantly, all too many of us think we're pretty healthy overall, and put off going to see our doctor on a regular basis. I'm just as bad on that as most.

Well, that is to say, I was. No more.

If you haven't seen your doctor in a year or more, do me and yourself a favor... go make an appointment now. Don't procrastinate. Do it now.

I was just shocked to learn that I have been diagnosed with Type II (Adult Onset) Diabetes. I had no prior warning signs or symptoms, and no known family history. This, I didn't expect.

Diabetes is actually a collection of related diseases involving how the body processes sugar. In short, if left untreated, your body becomes unable to "burn" fuel (food), and your cells — and you -- can starve to death.

I'm lucky. The doctors think mine was caught in time, although it is not yet under control. But I will be on medication for the rest of my life.

People over 45 are especially at risk. But this can sneak up on anyone, at any time.

Please. See your doctor. Today if possible.

— 73, Ron Notarius W3WN

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Next Meeting: November 11th, 2010

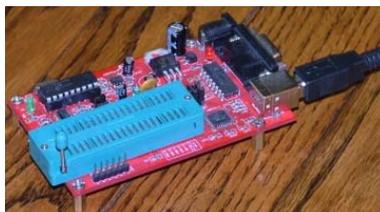
The next monthly meeting of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. will be Thursday, November 11th, 2010, at the North Strabane Township Municipal Building, 1929 Route 519, Canonsburg PA, starting at 7:00 PM.

Topics will include meeting locations, the NP2SH beacon, upcoming elections, the 2 meter contest, WASHFest 2011 & other activities.

Talk-in on the 146.955(-) N3SH/R and 443.650(+) N3FB/R Repeaters (131.8 PL). All members, guests and interested parties invited!

"Seen" at the September Meeting

Photos Courtesy of and ©Copyright 2010 Kevin Smith N3HKQ



WASH 2010 OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President	Ron Notarius W3WN
VP / Secretary	Bob Timmins AB3ED
VP / Treasurer	Mark Stabryla N3RDV

AND WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT:

N3SH / WA3SH Trustee	Steve Lane W3SRL
NP2SH Trustee	Paul Jordan NP2JF
N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH QSL Manager	Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI
NP2SH 2009 QSL Manager	Carl Schroeder K9CS
VE Team Liaison	Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL
Webmaster	Randy George N3ZK
Asst. Webmaster	Glen Roberts KE7FD
Quartermaster	Harold Rosenberger K3HCR
WASH FM Net Manager	Kevin Smith N3HKQ
WASHFest 2011 Committee	Kevin Smith N3HKQ, Chairman
	Carol Danko KB3GMN
Activities & Operating Events	Bob Timmins AB3ED
Ways & Means	Carol Danko KB3GMN
Field Day 2011 Coordinators	Kevin Smith N3HKQ
	Larry Comden K3VX

CLUB-AFFILIATED REPEATERS, BEACONS, & DIGIPEATERS:

Mt. Lebanon	N3SH / R	146.955 MHz (-)	PL 131.8
Mt. Lebanon	W3SRL / R	442.550 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
Canonsburg	N3FB / R	443.650 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
St. Johns, VI	NP2SH / B	28.276 MHz	Propagation Beacon
Canonsburg	N3SH	144.390 MHz	APRS Digipeater

N3SH / WA3SH WASHNet, the weekly on-air net of WASH, meets every Sunday Night, 9:00 PM ET, on the 146.955 & 443.650 repeaters. All radio amateurs, WASH members or not, are welcome to join in!

THE LEGAL STUFF

"The WASHRag™" (formerly "The Mariner™") is the Official Newsletter of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. (WASH)**

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The **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** was founded on August 23rd, 1993, as the original **SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**, and operated under that name through 1998. WASH was also known briefly in late 1998 as the **N3SH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**. It is not in any way affiliated with the "South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc." and is not responsible for that group, it's members, or it's actions in any way, shape, or form.

As always, special thanks to the owners of both the N3SH-W3SRL Repeater System and the N3FB/R Repeater System for permitting the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** and it's members to use their repeaters for club purposes. Special thanks also to Glen Roberts KE7FD of The Internet Guild for his assistance in providing space on-line for our website for back issues of "The WASHRag™" which can be found at www.washrag.info

WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Next WASH VE Test October 16th

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2011 VE Test Session Schedule and location(s) has not been set yet. We should have the information in the December newsletter.

October 30th was a might early for the ghouls, ghosts, and goblins that were starting to pop up. But there's nothing like a little spirit in the air to accompany **the WASH Breakfast Gang** at **The Beach House** in Finleyville. This month's coven included W9UK, W3WH, N3DFK, WA4ONC, W3VFA, N3HKQ & Peg, K3SGT & Barb, W3WN and Mary Lou Marzina. As incantations were muttered... and they must have worked because we got plenty of coffee refills... discussions included contacting old friends, UPS deliveries, diet and exercise, family medical history, first freeze of the fall, retiring (again), Tippi's memorial, High School reunions, finding a job, Radio Disney, the demise of ESPN 1250 & what about WARO, 15 foot waves on Lake Michigan, verticals and radials, sweepstakes, collecting quarters, "so many unfinished projects," Flex Radio, Elecraft, Ten-Tec & radios with knobs ("I'm old-fashioned"), and a whole lot more.

We could make a few wisecracks about Thanksgiving, turkeys, Black Friday, and Hunting. But instead, why not simply join us for the next breakfast meeting on Saturday, November 27th at **The Beach House**, Library Road, Finleyville, just south of Trax Farm. See you there!

Normally, this is the issue were we'd start running the rules for the upcoming **2 Meter Simplex Contest**. But, we were talking with Ed N3ZNI, who is chairing the 2011 running of the event, to see if there would be any changes to the rules, and Ed has suggested that we do a significant overhaul, to make the event simpler to log and operate in. Ed will be discussing the changes he'd like to see, and why, at the November meeting.

Speaking of November, we hope to have a demonstration after the meeting. As of deadline, we were not able to confirm that our invited presenter would be able to attend. Guess it's going to be a mystery...

We have a bunch of **upcoming club events**, and although it doesn't seem like it now, they'll be here before you know it. Our annual Christmas / Holiday party will again be an "end of the season" event in January. Plus, the 2 Meter Simplex contest in January, and of course, **WASHFest 2011** in February. We did not reserve the North Strabane meeting room for December, but will try to do so in the next few days (we would be splitting the room with another group if we do so).

Glen Roberts KE7FD sent a **questionnaire** out on the club reflector the other day. This is your chance to give the club leadership an inkling as to what direction you'd like to see **WASH** go forward with in 2011. Glen presented the first four members who send their questionnaires back with a special gift at the October meeting, as noted in the meeting minutes. We can only imagine what Glen has in mind for November. Did you fill your questionnaire out yet?

If you're interested in joining members of **WASH** and the Steel City ARC in attending the **Dayton Hamvention 2011**, we have some good news from Greg NB3C. The University of Dayton will be available, AND we will be back in the Lawnview Building. Greg has already contacted the usual suspects, but there is additional room available — right now but most likely not for much longer. Cost per person is \$72.75 when we have four people in a room. That's for the entire 3 day stay, not just per night! No money due until January. Contact **Greg** directly for more information if you are interested.

Not wanting to get too far ahead (we have a lot coming up as it is), but Jim WB4GCS has tentatively offered the club his and Patty KC4WTT's hospitality for **Field Day 2011**, by hosting the club's operation this year. What do you think of the idea? Oh, speaking of which, we've downloaded from the ARRL's contest results database all listed results from WPA for **Field Day 2010**. You'll find the grid on the last page.

And since we're on the subject of contests, anyone interested in activating N3SH or WA3SH in the **upcoming ARRL 160 or 10 meter contests?** Also, Ye Editor would appreciate a few extra hands to help operate W3WN as a Multi-Single entry in the **2011 ARRL DX Contests** in February and March. Cycle 24 is underway, and the bands are starting to pick up... time to have some fun operating!

VE Test Results

WASH's October VE session was held on October 18th, 2010 in Room 103 of the Washington County Building.

We had one candidate, and he was successful.

Congratulations to David N. Patterson, KD8OXN, of Follansbee, WV.

Thanks to our VEs: Frank KB3AAG, Bud N3TIR, and Ed N3ZNI.

73, Jacque Gosselin n3zel@comcast.net



WASHNet 2010 NCS Schedule

11/07 - Dave N3DFK	12/05 - Bob AB3ED
11/14 - Bill W3WH	12/12 - Kevin N3HKQ
11/21 - Harold K3HCR	12/19 - Dave N3IDH
11/28 - Carol KB3GMN or Richie N3SBF	12/26 - Frank N3FB 1/2/2011 - Dave N3DFK

ARRL WPA Members:

If you have not yet done so, there is still time left to send in your ballot for either N3MSE or N3SPW, for ARRL WPA Section Manager.

Ballots will be counted and results announced on or about November 19th.

Right now, the only thing we can promise is that the next WPA Section Manager will be named John!

Join WASH or Renew your Membership for 2011 Today! Membership Application on Page 13 !!

Minutes, October 14th Meeting

Bob Timmons AB3ED, Vice President/Secretary, **WASH**

Ron W3WN called the meeting to order at 19:05 hours. There were 13 members and guests in attendance.

A moment of silence was observed for recent silent keys and other deserving persons, including Tippi Comden WA3JPP.

A motion was made by Bill W3WH to waive reading of the September minutes as published in the newsletter. Seconded by Kevin N3HKQ and carried unanimously.

Committee reports:

Treasurer (N3RDV): A balance on the bank account was read on Mark's behalf.

Secretary (AB3ED): No report.

VE Report (N3ZEL): VE' exam is this coming Monday, October 18th testing session, which is being held in Room 103 of the Washington County Courthouse in Washington PA. (Date moved to scheduling conflict)

Repeaters (N3FB): The air conditioning unit will need to be replaced over the summer. The bill is estimated to come to \$200. Jim WB4GCS made a motion for the club to cover the cost of the AC unit, seconded by Carol KB3GMN. Carried unanimously.

Net Report (N3HKQ): Participation has been improving with .955 back up.

Contests (W3WN for K3VX): A quick overview of how club members did in the Pa QSO party, congratulations to Carol KB3GMN and Richie N3SBF for achieving a Clean Sweep. Reminder that CQ WW SSB is at the end of the month. ARRL Sweepstakes, 160, and 10 meter contests are coming up, as is the WASH 2 meter simplex contest in January.

Public Service (N3IDH): No report

Ways and Means (KB3GMN): "I have my can!" There will be a 50/50 tonight.

President's Report (W3WN): At the President's request, Frank N3FB made a motion that the club send a \$100 donation to Forbes Hospice on behalf of Tippi Comden. Second by Glen KE7FD and passed.

Old Business: None

Nominations for Officers: Ron W3WN nominated for President, accepted. Bob AB3ED and Glen KE7FD nominated for Vice President/Secretary, accepted. Nominations closed until November.

New Business: A discussion of the NP2SH Beacon Project was followed by a motion by Carol KB3GMN for the club to spend up to \$100 on the beacon project. Second by Patty KC4WTT. Following further discussion, the motion was amended to allocate up to \$200 for the project. Motion passed unanimously.

Carol KB3GMN asked about the annual Christmas party. General discussion agreed that an "end of season" party in January would again be best for all. Bob AB3ED has offered to host the party at his home in Pleasant Hills this year. Proposed date is January 14th.

Good of the Order: Glen KE7FD presented prizes to the first four entries in his questioner. Prizes winners were:

- [1] AB3EN — Candy
- [2] K3VX — Rosin Core Solder
- [3] N3HKQ — Utility Knife
- [4] AB3ED — Screwdriver Set

Motion to Adjourn by Jim WB4GCS, Second by Carol KB3GMN and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 19:44 hours.

Meeting was followed by a "show and tell" by Mike N3BSQ of this 10 meter beacon, which is the same equipment he has proposed to use for the new NP2SH beacon.

The invention of the Morse code and telegraph are important because for the first time communication became independent of transportation.

Never again did we have to move something to communicate.

— Fred Villers K8FV

WASH Spotlight: 1953



We received this from Larry just after last month's newsletter, but it is too good a picture to not print...

Yes, that is Tippi WA3JPP(SK) & Larry Comden K3VX, in 1953. Larry tells us that the photo was taken of the (then) two new hams in the shack of W1TWZ, at the time Larry's High School buddy. Larry scanned this photo from the original 8x10.

Anyone want to try and guess what equipment you can see in the background behind them?

Photo courtesy of and ©Copyright 2010 Larry Comden K3VX

Every month we're going to feature a **WASH** club member, something about them, something they're involved in or a club-related activity that we're involved in, in the **WASH Spotlight**. Submissions for the Spotlight should be sent to Ron W3WN at [newsletter at n3sh dot org](mailto:newsletter@n3sh.org)

Monthly WASH Breakfast

Please join us for the next **WASH** Breakfast! We usually get together on the LAST Saturday of every month for a chance to informally sit down, shoot the breeze, compare notes, drink lots of coffee, and just have a good time!



Join us this month at **The Beach House**, on Route 88 in Finleyville, just south of Trax Farms and adjacent to Mineral Beach. Start time is about 8 AM until ????? Monitor 146.955 & 443.650 for talk-in or any last minute changes.

All are welcome, **WASH** members or not, amateurs or not!

Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

AB3ED	KB3ORR	N3ZEL	WASH FL	WASH VI	Silent Keys
AB3EN	KB3TOA	N3ZK	KA3UPY/MM	NP2JF	
AB3KA	KC4WTT	N3ZNI	W4ZE		
AC4KU	KE7FD	NU3S	WASH GA		
AE3DL	N2QIV	W3LE	K3OL		K3EED (George)
K3AIR	N3AWF	W3RWS	KB3JX		KA3NMG
K3HCR	N3BPB	W3VFA	WASH NE		KB3ENX
K3LGM	N3CZZ	W3WH	NØPEU		KB3FNM
K3VX	N3DFK	W3WN	WASH OH		KB3FQT
K3WJL	N3FB	W4ZE	N8DPW		N3FZ
KA3ANU	N3HKQ	WA4ONC	WASH SC		N3KEH
KA3RXY	N3IDH	WB4GCS	N3RNX		N3OBD
KA3TWI	N3PN		WASH TN		N3SKR
KB3DCO	N3QMV	Jane Wagner	KE3XB		N3SRC
KB3ERQ	N3RDV		N3YPB		N3XFE
KB3GMN	N3RHT		WASH TX		W3ZLK
KB3GMP	N3SBF		K3LGM		WA3JPP
KB3GMU	N3TIR		Jane Wagner		

Through June 29TH, 2010

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

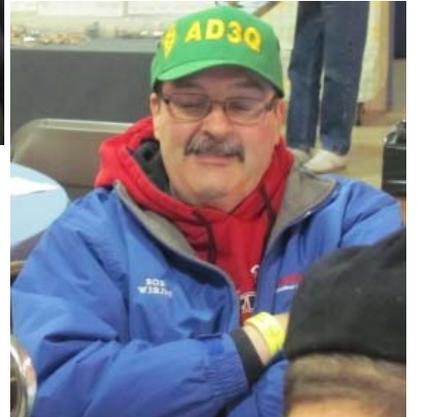
2010 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Meeting Topics & Other Significant Club Events — Subject to Change

November 6 th —7 th	ARRL Sweepstakes CW	http://www.arrl.org
November 7 th	WACOM Hamfest	http://www.wacom.org
November 10 th	Frequency Measuring Test	http://www.arrl.org
November 11 th	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	@ North Strabane Municipal Building
November 20 th —21 st	ARRL Sweepstakes SSB	http://www.arrl.org
November 27 th —28 th	CQ WW DX Contest CW	http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com
December 3 rd —5 th	ARRL 160 M Contest	http://www.arrl.org
December 9 th	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	@ North Strabane Municipal Building
December 11 th —12 th	ARRL 10 M Contest	http://www.arrl.org
December 19 th	ARRL Rookie Contest CW	http://www.arrl.org
December 31 st	ARRL Straight Key Night	http://www.arrl.org
January 8 th	<i>WASH</i> 2 Meter Simplex Contest	http://www.n3sh.org
January 8 th —9 th	ARRL RTTY Roundup	http://www.arrl.org
January 13 th	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	@ North Strabane Municipal Building
January 14 th	<i>WASH</i> End Of Season Christmas/Holiday Party	@AB3ED's Home (Date Tentative)
January 22 th —24 th	ARRL VHF Sweepstakes	http://www.arrl.org
February 19 th & 20 th	ARRL DX Contest CW	http://www.arrl.org
February 27 th	<i>WASH</i> Fest 2011	http://www.n3sh.org
March 5 th & 6 th	ARRL DX Contest SSB	http://www.arrl.org
April 10 th	2 Rivers ARC Hamfest	http://www.trarc.net
May 15 th	City of Pittsburgh Marathon	http://marathon.central.org
June 5 th	Breezeshooter's Hamfest	http://www.breezeshooters.org
June 25 th & 26 th	ARRL Field Day	http://www.arrl.org

"Seen" at the WACOM Hamfest

Photos Courtesy of and ©Copyright 2010 Ron Notarius W3WN



The Antenna Party

Don Keith N4KC courtesy of www.eham.net

Everybody says it so it must be true. The performance of a homebrew antenna is directly proportional to how rotten the weather is when it is installed.

That was one reason why we had high hopes for young Jack Oakley's aerial that hot, summer day. Several of us had gathered early, while it was merely sweltering and not yet hellish hot, as it would be in a few hours. We came equipped with tools, rope, wire, insulators, a balun, feedline, a short section of coax, a slingshot and a fishing reel—all we needed to build a proper multi-band dipole antenna.

Jack met us at the door, excited, greeting us with a string of "Thank you's" as he shook each of our hands. He motioned for us to follow him through the small, dark house and out onto the patio behind. There, he had a tub waiting, filled with ice, sodas, and beer.

"Aw, Jack, you didn't have to do that," I told him, but that did not prevent us from reaching in and grabbing ourselves some cold drinks.

"You guys didn't have to give up your Saturday to come do this, either. What can I do to help?"

"I think you just did," Win McCullers, our ace-slingshot-shooter told him. As he sipped, he was already eyeing some high tree limbs on the tall elms that lined the back of Jack's small lot. He took a swig of his soda and winked at the rest of us, then headed off toward the far corner of the yard.

"How high you reckon you can get it?" Jack asked.

"High as it needs to be," I told him. "We'll cut it for the low end of 80...you still want to do some CW down there, don't you?...and if I know Win, he may hook one end of it to the moon and the other one to Mars."

"Are you sure you have enough room?" Jack asked. "I don't think my lot is big enough for...what?...a hundred and thirty-five feet?"

"We'll make it work," I told him. "Win is an expert at lot stretching. I once saw him fit a rhombic into a phone booth."

Jack had an odd look on his face. I didn't know if he was unfamiliar with the term "rhombic" or "phone booth." Kids! Well, he was somewhere in his early twenties and that certainly made him a "kid" to me.

Meanwhile, Grady Harrison was unspooling the flexweave copper wire, taking one end toward the other side of the yard.

"You gonna stand there and tell lies or you gonna bring one end of the tape measure over here?" Grady asked, employing his usual gruff old grouch demeanor. "I don't know for certain, but I suspect it will get hot here directly."

I tapped Jack on the shoulder, told him thanks again for the drink, grabbed the 100-foot tape, and headed that way. Win was already about to launch a lead weight attached to a spool of fishing line, his slingshot aimed for a nice, horizontal limb about fifty feet from the ground. He had painted the weight a brilliant yellow, and I could easily follow its arc as it flew perfectly over the limb and disappeared behind the leaves on the other side.

"First time!" Win whooped. "Sometimes I amaze myself."

"Even a blind pig finds an acorn..." Grady started but hushed immediately as he tied off the end of the antenna wire to a bush. "Here, give me the tape and see if you can remember your numbers long enough to take it yonder way sixty-seven-feet-six-inches."

"You sure you have the strength to hold onto it, there, Grady?" I jibed. "I know how weak you old folks get if you miss your daily dose of Geritol."

As soon as I marked the spot with a piece of electrical tape, Grady quickly wrapped his end of the antenna wire around a ceramic egg insulator.

"Measure it again, just to make sure," he told me. "I'd hate to have to un-cut it if you get it too short." But the wire was right on the money and I pulled a pair of wire cutters from my pocket and cut it a few inches past my mark. Grady handed me a commercially made center insulator, designed to keep strain off the ladder line that we planned to use for a feedline. While I attached the one leg of the antenna to the center insulator, Grady fussed.

"I can't believe it. Time was, we would have made that insulator out of a chunk of Plexiglas or whatever we could find in the junk box instead of going out and buying a contraption like that," he grumbled.

"Yeah, then you would get the opportunity to replace it with some other piece of jury-rigged junk the first time a bird lit on the thing." I'd learned a long time ago that Grady Harrison loved to argue and complain almost as much as he loved cobbling together tube-type amplifiers and jawing with his buddies on the air. He was of the opinion that nothing good had happened in electronics and radio since 1952. And anybody unfortunate enough to not have been around or in the hobby of ham radio before that could not be a part of his fraternity.

Grady was a decent enough guy. His presence this blistering hot day to help a young ham who needed it was proof enough of that. But sometimes his curmudgeon act wore a bit thin. Especially as the temperature and humidity rose ever higher.

I felt a tug on the half-built antenna. Win was already tying a piece of strong, UV-resistant rope to the insulator, ready to draw that end over the tree limb when the time came.

"Reckon you can make another piece of wire exactly as long as this one without doing any damage?" Grady asked.

"I can get it close."

"If we just wanted 'close' I could have left my tape measure at the house. You want a balanced antenna. That means both sides are the same length. Balanced."

"Really? Grady, I don't know what I would do without you?"

I caught a glimpse of Jack Oakley. He had moved his wheelchair a few feet to get into a patch of shade on the patio.

"You got the transceiver warmed up?" I called to him. "We'll be working DX in a few minutes."

"It's all solid state. I didn't think you had to warm those up."

"Humph!" Grady said, just loud enough for only me to hear him. "Where do they get their licenses these days? Out of cornflake boxes?"

"Grady, that kid..." I started, but Win was there, torch in hand. He also had a bundle of coiled-up ladder line.

We made quick work of punching a hole in the middle of the line and attaching it to the center insulator with a nylon screw and nut, and then we wrapped each of the two feedline conductors around the opposing legs of the dipole. Being careful not to get the wires too hot or melt the insulator, Win soldered everything together, allowed it to cool, then pulled hard in every direction. We had good connections all around, but Grady insisted on pulling out his volt-ohm meter and checking continuity all the way to the far end of each leg of the aerial and to the end of the ladder line.

It was really getting hot as we watched Win step off the distance to a tree in the front corner of Jack's lot. He then looked up and considered the various branches above him.

"Just enough," he announced. "We won't have to make this thing an ugly 'Z' after all."

It took him several tries to get his fishing line and sinker over this limb since he had to avoid any chance of shooting it as far as a power line across the street or have his brightly colored weight go through the neighbor's picture window. A group of neighborhood kids had gathered on the sidewalk, too, and he did not want to bean one of them.

There is no correlation that I know about between blood, concussions, and antenna performance.

"It'll never fit," Grady firmly announced. He had been eyeballing the distance between the two trees at the corners of Jack's lot. "Ain't far enough between them trees."

"Grady, you are about the most optimistic fellow I think I have ever encountered," I told him sarcastically. He really was beginning to irritate me.

Win simply winked at me, grinned, pulled his rope over the limb, and tied it snugly onto the other egg insulator.

"Go pull the other end up so the insulator is a couple of feet from the limb," he told me. I did. Grady just stood there in the middle, shaking his head before he stomped off. The feedline, hooked to the center of the antenna, uncoiled as the insulator rose into the air. Then Win pulled the rope on his end. Sure enough, when we pulled the wire reasonably taut, he had about three feet between his insulator and the limb. The antenna just fit, as if those trees had been planted there just for that purpose.

"Lucky vegetation," Win called it.

Grady was not paying any attention to us, though. Proven wrong, he was now on a stepladder, grumbling all the time, attaching a small, enclosed balun to the underside of an eave on the house, just above the window to Jack's den. He checked a marking on the ladder line, cut it there, and hooked it to the balanced side of the balun. His grumbling grew even louder as he screwed the connector on the end of a short piece of coax to the other side and then stuck it beneath the screen, poked beneath the narrow opening where the window was barely raised, and fed it inside.

"Don't tell anybody you just saw me doing this," he said. "It would surely ruin my reputation. Baluns? Ladderline? Automatic antenna tuners? No wonder nobody can hear most of these guys on the bands these days, unless they're runnin' a California kilowatt."

Win and I tried to ignore Grady's grousing. He was still convinced every radio should have tubes and anything between the output of the radio and the feedpoint of the antenna—anything besides open wire feedline—was an atrocity. Anybody caught using such should have to turn his license back in to the FCC.

We quickly surveyed our work. The antenna was stretched from one convenient tree to another, high above the yard from one extreme corner to the opposite one. The ladder line fell straight down from its middle for forty feet or so before it stretched over to the balun Grady had reluctantly hung beneath the eave. We had tied off both end ropes for the time being and would come back and use opposing 8-penny nails as cleats to do a more permanent securing. We would install a spring on one end to take the tension if a strong wind decided to blow the two trees in opposite directions.

"All right, let's see how she plays," Win said.

Jack was already inside with the radio on. Grady followed with the toolbox and the volt-ohm meter. We stopped long enough to grab drinks and went inside. Win twisted the coax into the back of the automatic matching device on Jack's desk, then made sure the other jumper led from the HF antenna connection on the transceiver to the input of the tuner and that all connectors were screwed on tightly.

"Ready to go, Jack," Win announced. "See if she works."

Jack pushed a button on a small box that rested on the desk in front of his radio.

"Three point eight three zero," said a tinny, mechanical voice. Jack spun the dial on the rig and hit the button on the box again. "Three point five one five."

He felt for the button on the front of the automatic tuner and punched. Relays chattered inside the device and the cross-needles on the dial swayed rhythmically up and down. Win and I looked at each other as the box rattled away for a good ten seconds, then it sent "di di dit" and waved the two needles in surrender.

The SWR was too high. The matching device could not tune it.

"Hmmm," was all Win could manage.

"It's all that computerized stuff and that dang balun," Grady said from the back of the room. "Told you. I got some coils and a capacitor in my junk box and we could breadboard up a quick tuner that would match a butter knife."

"And have as much loss as a ten-foot two-by-four and enough stray RF to cook supper, too," Win told him, taking a long draw from his bottle of soda as he considered this development. "Besides, it might be a hassle for Jack to have to mess with a Rube Goldberg apparatus like that."

I tried to ignore the look of disappointment on Jack's face as I turned to address our official club curmudgeon.

"Grady, we got some other problem going on here and we'll figure out what it is and get some fire in the wire for old Jack, here," I told him, mostly for Jack's benefit. What with the humidity and heat and the trouble with the antenna, Grady was really beginning to grate on my nerves. But I held my tongue.

"Most likely that store-bought balun. We could have left that out altogether if he didn't have that rice box for a radio."

Win was gazing out the window, studying the antenna, its center conductor high in the air, swaying just slightly in the breeze. The feedline came down perfectly to the terminals on the balun and the short run of coax fed—without being pinched beneath the window—to the tuner output.

"Let's see," Win said. "Let's do this logically. We measured twice and cut once, right? And we checked continuity at the feed point, too?"

"I did," Grady confirmed.

"And the feedline?"

"It's okay...for that dang ladder line stuff, anyway."

"No reason to suspect a problem with the balun, Grady. It was working fine last time I used it."

"Baluns. Hummmph!"

"Jack's been using his tuner on that little short loop of his and it has worked okay in places."

"Tuner? That ain't nothing but a bunch of micro-processors and relays!" Grady spat out "micro-processors" as if it was a dirty word.

Win was scratching his chin. So was I. There just was not much that could have gone wrong. The antenna was about as simple as they come. I was about to start wondering if maybe Grady was right about the balun or tuner being on the fritz.

"Did we check the coax?" Jack suddenly piped up. "That seems to be the only thing we haven't looked at. I think the jumper from the rig to the tuner is okay. At least it was working last night when I used it."

"Naw! Can't be the other run of coax. I built that up myself last night," Grady said.

"Did you check it after you put the connectors on it?" Win asked.

"I didn't have to. I've been soldering coax connectors since 'fifty-one. Ain't never had one fail yet."

"Just for giggles and grins, let me see your meter, Mr. Marconi," Win said.

Grady shook his head as he handed the volt-ohm meter over to Win. I unscrewed the coax from the back of the auto-tuner and gave it to him. He touched one probe to the outside of the connector and the other to the center pin. The meter flew over to the right-hand peg.

The Antenna Party

continued from Page 8

"Shorted," Win reported for Jack's benefit. Grady and I could see it for ourselves. "Dead short."

"It's that dang balun. I told you. Something's shorted inside that thing."

"Okay, go take the other end loose, then," Win told him, but Grady was already headed out the backdoor, anxious to show us the error of our ways. He climbed back up on the ladder and unscrewed the cable from the balun's SO-239 connector.

Again, Win touched the two sides of the coax. The meter once more flew to the right. Win turned to me and grinned. We could hear Grady snorting through the window. He saw the glee on our faces.

"Let me guess," Jack said. "It's the coax that's bad."

"Yessir," Win confirmed for him. "The Coax King out there either grabbed a bad piece of cable or shorted something when he put on one of the connectors. Most hams would have at least checked it once they got it built. Reckon we ought to make him turn in his license to the FCC?"

"No!" Jack said. "He didn't..."

"Just kidding," Win told him. "But it is kind of sweet to see him get his come-uppance once in a while."

"Look, I have another jumper over there under the table," Jack said. "It's RG-8X. I was going to use it from the rig to the solid-state amp when I get it."

"Don't let the old man hear you say 'solid state' and 'amp' in the same sentence!" I told Jack. "He'll have a stroke right there on your patio." We both laughed.

We quickly handed one end of the new cable out to Grady and screwed the other onto the tuner. Again Jack touched the "Tune" button. Again the box chattered, but this time only a couple of quick clicks. The digital readout on the device said "1 : 1." So did the tinny voice from the little box on the desk.

We looked on as Jack moved up the band and tried tuning up in several spots. The automatic tuner made quick work of it. Then he tried several other bands. Though it took longer to find a match in a couple of places, it still managed it just fine. We could also hear some very strong signals and occasional bursts of static.

Then, on the low end of 20 meters, a station on an island off the eastern coast of Africa was working a pileup. Jack used his sense of touch to flip the mode switch to CW and synch up and then split the VFOs.

"Reckon I ought to give him a try?" he asked.

"Why not?" Win and I told him in unison.

All the while, Grady sat in the back corner of the room, intently studying the short piece of coax as if he had never seen such a thing before. As if he could spot the short just by staring at it.

When the DX station paused to listen again, Jack sucked in a deep breath and sent his call with the old paddle he used. The station answered and quickly worked someone else.

Again, Jack sent his call letters. Nope. Another station.

Jack shrugged.

"Oh, well. Maybe I'll see how the antenna tunes up on 17."

"Hey, don't give up so easy," I told him. "He's got a good signal, and I'll bet he isn't running any more power or any better antenna than you are."

He breathed deeply again and sent his callsign one more time.

Silence.

Then Jack's call letters, coming back from the other side of the world, followed with "599."

For a moment, I thought Jack was so shocked that he would not even be able to respond. The young ham's hand was shaking so badly he could hardly answer, but he managed his own "599 TU 73," even with his trembling keying hand.

"TU 73," came the response.

Jack Oakley's dark glasses were slightly askew on his nose when he spun around in our direction, but the broad smile on his face told us all we needed to know.

"I got him! I got him!"

He quickly typed out the call letters and signal reports on his Braille keyboard. Then, he turned right back to the radio and began twisting the dial, eagerly searching for more signals, more worlds to conquer.

Meanwhile, Grady sat there watching the whole thing, a sheepish expression behind his full beard.

"Who'd he call? Did he copy him?"

"Grady, you really ought to learn CW sometime," I told him.

"I learned it. I learned it enough to get my General Class license way back when. Ain't touched a key since. Never seen a need. That stuff is old-fashioned."

Win and I looked at each other and grinned. Meanwhile, Jack had pounced on an SM5 and was already exchanging signal reports.

As we headed outside, we grabbed yet another soda from the ice in the tub. We needed to secure the ends of that fine antenna before a thunderstorm blew up. Then we would help Jack locate the connection on the back of the tuner so he would be able to unscrew it and drop it outside for lightning protection.

A nice breeze had sprung up and somehow, it did not seem nearly as hot and humid as it had only a few moments before.

Team Leader VK3FY has announced that the upcoming **DXODX** DXpedition it will be extended to allow participation in the CQ World Wide 160m CW Contest. He says while DXODX was to go QRT on the 24th January, a couple of individual and keen members have asked if they could stay on air for that contest when ends at 2200 UTC Sunday the 30th of January. This will now extend DXODX activation to 1st of February, 2011.

This limited extension was agreed in light of strong interest from Top Band contesters and the 160m band being the highest sought after in the DXODX website online survey.

DXODX will now be on air from 6 January through 1 February 2011.

– Jim Linton VK3PC

Where Is 3B9FR?

Ken Sheper WA8JOC

I had learned from a source located not too far from 3B9 that Robert had "disappeared" from the island. An Italian amateur had searched for him for over a month during his stay on 3B9, but he was never found. A ham there has told me he will attempt sometime soon to travel to 3B9 to see what he can find out.

The original message generating this effort was from WF5E had said that this was the situation and that no QSL's were generated with his absence, and really hadn't been issued in the past, due to past history for this station. Several other amateurs (including myself) have outstanding QSO's on multiple bands with Robert that would give new band country counters, so I'm sure this is a widespread problem.

If anyone has additional info, please inform everyone. Robert was the main contact for years from 3B9, even with the 3B9C expedition eating into the demand.

I've attempted to generate some interest in obtaining old logs, but without Robert's permission, I don't think ARRL would fly with issuance of any cards, even if the logs were verified as his. Let's keep our fingers crossed that Robert is OK and just on a long holiday off island, and that we can convince him to turn the logs over to a manager for processing.

F6EAY just got his license to operate from Cameroon as TJ3AY. He is present in Cameroon for professional reasons and the duration is uncertain. Active from 50Mhz to 7Mhz RTTY and SSB. Equipment for the moment is a R6000 Vertical & Dipole for 40m.

QSL is via F5LGE (printing is not yet done, so be patient, not ready until February 2011). -- F5NBU

DL7VOG will again be QRV as HKØGU from San Andres 13 November—2 December 2010. He will be operating from Isla Pirata SA-040 during his current stay. —DX World of Amateur Radio

W3A was on for inauguration week, 2009, making 4000+ QSOs.

We received a shoebox or two of QSL cards, but don't have a need to keep them.

Can anyone suggest an organization or individual who might be interested in taking them? I can also provide our QSL card and the certificate we offered (if I can find one, as they were only printed on-demand).

I'd hate to dump them into the recycling bin or worse, landfill.

Thanks + 73, Eric Rosenberg W3DQ

I am pleased to announce the launch of my On-line QSL Request System (OQRS). In addition to the long established ability to request bureau cards via e-mail, you can now request QSL cards for any of the 100+ callsigns that I manage to be mailed to you direct and to pay for the postage etc. via PayPal.

Why bother with mailing direct? The OQRS is easy and reasonable. Any queries or unforeseen issues will be handled via e-mail. Please visit my web site www.g3swh.org.uk for further information and instructions.

— 73 Phil Whitchurch G3SWH

DX News Briefs

"The 'Buddies in the Caribbean' DXpedition group, which specializes in 100 watt or less low power radios and the Buddipole portable antenna systems is back again to St Lucia (J6) on 5 - 13 December 2010.



The North Shore Villa location was magnificent on our first visit in February 2010, and we want to demonstrate with a new group of operators, "ultralite" dxpeditioning into magnificent "vista" locations, operating a field portable, battery-only radio with backpackable, lightweight antennas and most of all "having fun". The entire DXpedition is limited to equipment that can fit in your airline "suitcase".

There will be 3 Villa stations in operation at various times on 160-10m using CW, SSB, and RTTY. During the day, several teams will be battery-only, field portable either from St Lucia beaches or scenic mountain tops. They group has received a unique J6BP callsign for the ARRL 10m contest on 11-12 December. QSL via LoTW, eQSL, or mail to the operator's home call (SASE required). For more details, see <http://sites.google.com/site/caribbeanbuddies/> — K4WSB / VP2MSB

KC4AAA has been reported active during the last few weeks. Thanks to Ernie W1MRQ who was volunteer examiner, eight people successfully passed their amateur radio exam on October 29, 2010 at Amundsen-Scott Antarctic station. Obviously, with nine ham operators now based there, it is very good news for all those who would like to work the mythical "South Pole station" at 90°South — Worldwide Antarctic Program

The ZL8X DXpedition is expected to be QRV from Raoul Island on or about 18 November. The team is reported to be enroute to New Zealand, and will then take the Braveheart on the remainder of their journey. More information is available on their [website](http://www.zl8x.com) — ZL8X Kermadec 2010

G3SWH is no longer the QSL manager for 9J2CA / 9I4ØCA. He has no blank cards left — G3SWH

"WA3HUP, had nothing to do with the 2009 XRØY DXpedition. In any event she has retired from QSL Managing altogether and no longer acts as QSL manager for any station whatsoever. Our bureau is receiving a fair number of cards for the latest XRØY "via WA3HUP", and we are turning them around and forwarding them to SQ8X via PZK in the IARU Bureau system. — 73, Fred Laun, K3ZO, Manager, ARRL Third Call Area Incoming QSL Bureau"

If you worked FR/F6GTO last August, you worked Slim — W3UR

"I would like to inform you that all amateur radio stations working from Abkhazia with prefix UF6 are illegal. All UF6V... calls are pirates, because UF6 is a Russian prefix (Abkhazia is part of Georgia) and all amateur radio stations from Abkhazia must only use the 4L prefix" -- Mamuka Kordzakhia 4L2M, President, National Association Radio Amateurs of Georgia

QSL Routes

3A/VA3EU via VE3NZ — DF6EX	R1FJM via RX3MM — K6GEP
4U1ØNPT via OE1ZKC — JA1HGY	R75ØY via RN3RQ — RN3RQ
7P8JK via WB6QJB — JA1HGY	S79BWW via CT1BWW — JA1HGY
8Q7SO via JK1KSB — JA1HGY	S79SAL via EA2RC — JA1HGY
9K2YM via EA5KB — W2IRT	S92LX via DK7LX — N9RE
9XØLX via DK7LX — N9RE	T32MI via SM6CAS — DO1DXX
9XØTL via DL2RUM — JA1HGY	T46G via CO6LP — CO6LC
A33A via K6FHA — JA1HGY	UA2FL via RN3RQ — RN3RQ
A61E via EB7DX — JA1HGY	V31SJ via W5JAY — JA1HGY
AO5GL via EA5GL — JA1HGY	V31YY via K5YY — JA1HGY
FW5X via K6HFA — JA1HGY	VYØX via VE3LYC — VE3EXY
GJ4FDM via GM4FDM — GM4FDM	XRØY via SQ8X — K3ZO
K4C via KP4ES — W4DN	XU7ACY via W2EN — VE3EXY
KHØ/KT3Q via DL3OCH — JA1HGY	XU7ATM via F8ATM — JA1HGY
KLØ/AB5EB via AB5EB — N5UR\	XV9DT via OK1DOT — JA1HGY
MSØINT via MØURX — W3AWU	XT2EME via EA7FTR — KA3BMU
PJ4D via W3HNK — W3HNK	XX9LT via XX9AH — DO1DXX
PJ4N via DJ8NK — W3HNK	Z21BB via W3HNK — G4GED
PJ4W via W3HNK — W3HNK	ZG2FK via ZB2FK — K6GEP
PJ5NA via K1NA — WO2N	ZL5CP via WZ3Q — WA8JOC

Thanks to the NJDXA DX News & DX Chat Reflectors, the DX-QSL Reflector, 425 DX News, OPDX News, Diamond DX Club News, ICPO Bulletin, & ARRL DX Bulletin for our DX News information. Thanks also to Bill Moore NC1L / ARRL DXCC Desk, & Bernie McCleenny W3UR / The Daily DX for confirmations & additional information.



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Antenna Zoning or PRB-1 Issues?

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Murrin, Taylor, Flach, Gallagher & May
 110 East Diamond Street, Butler PA 16001
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Feel free to mention the **WASHRag** when you call him!

Has Roadway found the tower yet?

FCC News

ARRL Web Extra courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, November 1st, 2010 — Two US Attorneys have filed a Complaint (see below) in US District Court against Glenn Baxter K1MAN, for not responding appropriately to an order that he pay a \$21,000 fine for violating several sections of Part 97. The Complaint was filed October 25 in the US District Court for Maine.

The civil action was brought under Section 503(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and Section 1.80 of the FCC Rules and Regulations.



The fine had been levied, according to the Complaint, "for defendant's willful and repeated violations of Sections 97.101(d) [commencing transmissions on top of existing communications on 3.890 MHz] and 97.113(a)(3) [transmitting communications in which the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest] of the Commission's Rules, and for the defendant's willful violation of Section 97.105(a) [exercising control over station] and 97.113(b) [broadcasting] of the Rules, and for failure to file requested information pursuant to an Enforcement Bureau directive." [information in brackets added]

The Complaint seeks to force payment of the \$21,000 fine along with a filing fee and "such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper."

Additional FCC actions are anticipated.

Proposal continued from Page 1

two most popular bands though are 70-cm (432-MHz) and 23-cm (1296-MHz). Originally I wanted to suggest we get a 1296 MHz station on the air but I think that is more than we can handle as a group, at least for now. Putting a 70-cm station on the air though is doable. I can supply my FT-847 and an AZ/EL rotor system along with a computer control interface to steer an antenna system. I propose WASH assemble a 4 X 11 element yagi array (or a 8 X 11 if we are adventurous) using the Kent Britain WASVJB "Cheap" Yagi design outlined in this article <http://www.wa5vjb.com/yagi-pdf/cheapyagi.pdf>. The trick here is to construct a set of matched phasing lines that tie all the yagi's to a single co-axial cable. That means low loss coax and N-connectors. I have an old 70-cm Mirage preamp (powered through the coax) to lend the cause but what would be better is if the club buy a new one for around \$350 to \$400. We could still use it for Field Day and VHF/UHF contests. AR2 and SSB both make good ones. Finally, even with all of the gain we will generate with a 4 or 8 yagi array, we will still need to have have a 70-cm linear amplifier as large as we can find/purchase. One or two hundred watts is not too large. More power would be even better. Remember we are trying to bounce a signal off the moon; a half million mile round trip and a 261 dB path loss for 432-MHz! Finally the most popular modes of operation are CW and computer digital modes WSJT9 and MAP-65 so we will need some good CW operators and a computer with interfacing that I can supply.

That is my proposal that I would like the club to consider. If we decide to do this project, we need to do it soon as there will be much preparation to do have the necessary equipment assembled and tested. Of course we need to approach the astronomy club with the proposal and gain their acceptance or else there is no point to all of the work. I would like to discuss this proposal at the next club meeting on Thursday, November 11th at the North Strabane Municipal Building. I hope to see you there.

— 73, Kevin Smith N3HKQ



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WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.
c/o Mark Stabryla N3RDV, VP/Treasurer
1120 McKnight Drive
Bethel Park, PA 15102-2456

Name: _____

Call Sign: _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Please Check the Appropriate One-Year Rate:

- \$39 in US
- Age 21 or younger, \$20 in US (only if you are the oldest licensed amateur in your household)
- Canada \$49
- Elsewhere \$62
- Other (including Blind, Life, QST by First Class Postage — please contact ARRL for rate)

Dues subject to change without notice

Additional Family Members at the same address (\$8 per family member)

Name & Call Sign: _____

Name & Call Sign: _____

Name & Call Sign: _____

Call	Score	Class	QSOs	Club	Call	Score	Class	QSOs	Club
KA3UOL	968	1A	434	Crossover Ham Group	W3MIE	4,950	2A	1,277	
KB3GDG	852	1A	351	Thick Mountain Group	W3RP	3,660	2A	931	Crown Radio Group
KA3KSP	212	1C	56		W3S	1,240	2A	245	
KB3LIX	1,368	1D	370		N3TN	656	2A	103	Triple A ARA
WA3IVV	520	1D	130		KC2TOO	574	2B2	62	
W3IBT	454	1D	227		W3CSL	3,626	3A	1,158	Monessen ARC
N1YDU	186	1D	68		N3SH	3,424	3A	859	Wireless Assn of South Hills
N7IZM/W3	148	1D	74		W3ACH	2,046	3A	342	Cumberland Valley ARC
K3VED	130	1D	65		K3TTK	1,954	3A	595	Fort Armstrong Wireless Assn
ND3R	94	1D	31		K3SMT	1,352	3A	379	Somerset Cty ARC
WO3T	75	1D	75		W3TCW	1,274	3A	282	Tri-County CW ARC
AG3H	3,190	1E	770		W3YXE	1,132	3A	141	Radio Amateurs of Corry
W3HGT	2,886	1E	1,165		K3MJW	5,700	3E	1,768	
W3WC	1,050	1E	240		W3KWH	2,316	3E	697	
KB3ORR	550	1E	150		WA3COM	4,736	4A	1,253	Washington Amateur Communications
N3ZEL	302	1E	101		K3GT	2,486	4A	479	North Hills ARC
WB0IWG	136	1E	43		W3GV	2,150	4A	702	Radio Assn of Erie
K3HX	1,405	1EB	132		WX3SKY	2,082	4A	360	Skyview ARS
K3RLL	850	1EB	60		N3NIA	1,664	4A	452	Elk Cty ARA
W3ELW	175	1EB	25		K3PSG	1,524	4A	383	Butler Cty AR Public Service Group
N3QC	942	1F	146	Quad-County ARC	N3PC	1,002	4A	206	Headwaters ARC
AK3J	48	1F	14	Somerset Cty ARC	W3LIF	980	4F	15	Mercer Cty ARC
					W3OC	4,806	5A	1,178	Two Rivers ARC

Field Day 2010 Results for WPA

The WASHRag

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.
 Ron Notarius W3WN, Editor
 3395 Rosewood Drive
 Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546



N3SH / WA3SH
 NP2SH/B

www.n3sh.org
www.washarc.org
www.washrag.info

